

# WikiLeaks should open a branch in Montgomery County

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When it leaks, it pours.

The wonderful County government sprung a leak, according to the Civic Federation, at least in the case of civility by allowing those in attendance at a recent county council meeting to shout down opposition to the sale of former Peary High School.

The Federation is correct and spot-on when the assertion is made that decorum should prohibit such antics in a county council meeting.

But government of today is not government of yesterday.

Inundated with too much "Reality Television," and suffering from the mentality of "WWF Smackdown," government today resembles not so much the stoic meeting of the minds some envision, but more like watching ferrets on Benzedrine fight for food scraps.

Which makes me wonder exactly why we are all so upset with WikiLeaks? This Internet site has been dumping leaked cables and diplomatic wires on the world with the ferocity of those same ferrets and getting no love from anyone in return.

Does anyone else find it absolutely hilarious that Hillary Rodham Clinton, Bill O'Reilly and Sarah Palin are siding together to tarnish the heart and soul of the enterprise, one Julian Assange, who O'Reilly calls a "sleazebag" and Palin says should be hunted down "like al-Qaida."?

Not to belabor that point, but if you want to hunt someone down, hopefully we can do better than hunting down al-Qaida since the head of it has remained free for so many years. But I digress.

The leaders of the free world are upset because someone has leaked their private information, supposedly subverting American power and putting into jeopardy the lives of diplomats living on the fine edge out in the cold cruel world.

I wonder. Every time I see Republicans and Democrats siding up together, I watch my wallet and my freedom. Both are about to take a whack and I find it no different in this instance.

True, everyone is entitled to a private life, and true some things are better left unsaid and unpublished. So, don't say them and don't publish them. In this day and age only a true fool believes that anything you say or do on the Internet, on a computer or on tape or film will remain private.

Far from it is the reality.

In the rest of the world, especially in private enterprise, those who run the corporations watch their workers scrupulously, making sure that unbecoming e-mails don't see the light of day,

questioning visitations to nefarious websites and making sure the corporate image is neither compromised nor reflected poorly upon.

Why should it be any different in government?

In fact, one could argue there is a greater need for openness in government. I've never known a single instance in the history of man where more information did not serve the greater good, especially when it comes to the actions of those who work for us - our government representatives.

In a government of, by and for the people, there should be a transparency that is sorely lacking in ours. We continue to hide our behavior, especially with sheiks in the Middle East who have been known to engage in all kinds of accused criminal behavior to further their own agendas.

Should we the people not know what our employees and our representatives are saying behind closed doors? Should we not hold them accountable for their actions? Should we not wretch and vomit at some of the revelations we've seen and heard this week?

No. In a cliché that's as old as human civilization, the move now is to shoot the messenger - Assange, who runs WikiLeaks, rather than handle the bigger issue: our government representatives behaving poorly.

From the county council where the Civic Federation blew the whistle on poor behavior, to our federal government where WikiLeaks blew the whistle, the behavior is horrid.

The reporting of the behavior is merely what should and will be done. The real crime is that we're not doing enough of it and it took this long for the information to see the light of day.